

came down to his nursery, the Housemaid
was taken though she had never been
allowed in his room, & the whole house
was pervaded, ^{& supposed to be disinfectant} with the disagreeable smell
of carbolic acid. We were so worn out with
nursing, that I sent her to the Sanatorium
near Exeter, & after great fumigations, Jacky
& his nurse, Mrs. Trapp & I, drove down to
Chagford on the borders of Exmoor where we
remained his weeks, while the five rooms
that had been occupied were renovated
with white wash paint & paper: 10 layers of
different wall papers were found when the nur-
sery walls were scraped - many articles that
could not be washed was burned, making two
huge bonfires - an Inspector comes round with
the Doctor to see that every article of clothing
is fumigated with sulphur, yet there were
many things I advised burned -
Since then we have all been very well.
The summer was most delightful, sunny,
warm & dry, from March. It has been a
great year for fruit, & I never ate, even in May,
land or Delaware, such delicious peaches
as grew on the wall of our garden -
Mild weather still continues & the grass is

Nov. 16th /93

ROCKBEARE HOUSE,
NEAR EXETER.

My dear Mrs. Gray

I had been thinking
a great deal about you lately, & felt that
I must soon write to you; when two
days ago came the beautiful volumes con-
taining the letters & memorials of Dr. Gray.
I have as yet been only able to dip into
the books, & find them very interesting.

I must congratulate you on the manner
you have accomplished your work - I will
not call it task, for no doubt it has been a
labor of love to you -

The autobiography, & your notes, please me
greatly, & your resume at the end of the
second volume, of the character & work of
your dear husband, must give those who
did not know Dr. Gray a glimpse of his
life & labors, & to those who knew & appreciated
him, it is a just tribute to his excellence -

I dare say you feel happy that the book

is published, & got up in so good a style
of paper, type & illustrations -

The portraits of Dr. Gray are all excellent
except the first which was taken earlier
than I remember him - was it a daguerotype?

My father removed his family to Cambridge
in the autumn of 1842, so that I recollect
Dr. Gray soon after his coming to Harvard.

Mrs. Beck never tired of singing his praises
& said she looked upon him as a son.

I know that he at once made a most favor-
able impression on the then select society of
our college town - I once heard President

Dwight say how fortunate the University
was in securing his services at the time it
did - Miss Susan Duncanson of whom I saw a
good deal that winter, had a great deal to

say about the new Prof. of Botany -

Perhaps you know that the summer Mrs. Torrey
& her two daughters spent at the Botanic
Garden every body settled that he was to
marry one of them - something Mrs. Torrey
said gave that impression at first - but I fancy
it only arose from his intimacy with Dr. Torrey

& his family in New York - That you were to
be the favored one came as a surprise.

I had heard very pleasantly of you before
this, from James Jordan Clarke, who you
know was a ladies' man ^{some said a flirt.} ~~devoted for a time~~
but I think he was decidedly in love with you.
By the way is he still living at Nice?

He was a classmate of my brother Frank
& though utterly unlike, they were great friends.

I must tell you now something of my
own family - Last spring was a very trying
one, as in March the scarlet fever prostrated
our better half whom you may remember,
as he has lived here now seven years -
he was shut up in his room for six weeks -
Jacky took it after he had been ill a week
the Doctor not supposing at first that Jacky
had more than a bad cold - yet we never
knew that Jacky, running about the house
had anything to do with him - Poor Jacky
was isolated in an empty room at the top of
the house where he remained patiently for
six weeks; he had the disease very slightly,
but the rules here are very strict regarding
contagious diseases - The very day that he

very green, & the deciduous trees not yet ⁵
stripped of their foliage. Looking over the
lawn & fields from our front door the scene
is like early Springtime -

We have made many improvements
since you were here, & my delight is in
the glazed porch opening from the outer
hall, now gay with many colored chrysan-
themums. My gardener says we have
62 different varieties, all of them fine & well
gown. Mr & Mrs. Trapp are becoming farmers
having hired land belonging to the estate.
They have fine Jersey cows, sheep, & a large
poultry yard, one den a flock of 50 turkeys of
large size. Last year they made 50 hogshead
of cider. The outbuildings back of Rockbear
~~house~~ have been repaired somewhat, & put in
order, so that it looks very neat & tidy.

Why cannot you come over next summer
& make us a visit? & see some of your old
English friends as well as ourselves?

Backy Trapp has grown a thorough boy very
tall & large for his age, he will be four the

16th of next month - he has just got into
a Highland suit, the kilt & stockings of
the Rose-tartan of his clan - when his pho-
tograph is taken I will send you one -
he is a very active merry child.

What changes there are in Cambridge,
you must miss Mrs. Dix will so long a
near neighbor - & now I hear poor De Hagan
has gone - will Mrs. Hagan go back to Ger-
many? she is an interesting woman, Ella
& she were great friends - & we liked her very
much - I have a strong wish to visit Cambridge
once more, though my old friends there are
fast passing away - I hope to sell my house
there, as taxes & repairs eat up a great deal
of the rent, especially ~~was~~ I out of pocket while
it was empty for 18 months - my new tenant
Mrs. Blake is asking for the lowest terms on
which I will sell - but I fear she may not give
the price I want -

Francis & Indolore & wishes me to tell you
how delighted she is with the books -
she keeps up her antiquarian researches
& her literary work notwithstanding her
farming - & is a very busy & popular woman

I hope I have not worried you with too
long a letter - but I trust you will have time
to write to me soon - & tell me the Cambridge
news as I never now see a paper from
thence -

I was glad to hear of the Republican
victories last week - & that old Massachu-
setts had gone back to her former politics -

I cannot have time to tell you of English
affairs in which I am much interested,
only that we have a very hard winter before
us the coal stick & organizing trade
I gave 3/8 yesterday for a ton of coal &
hay is £ 5. per ton, so I have given up one
of my horses for the winter - the summer was
so dry that the crop of hay was small, Amer-
ican hay is now imported as well as Pennsylvania
coal.

My health has been remarkably good this
season - I hope you are well.

Remember me kindly to Miss Gray, & to your
niece Catherine Loring -

May accept much love from your old friend
Isabella James.